

Cambridge Public Library  
Board of Library Trustees  
Minutes

A regular meeting of the Board of Library Trustees was held on Monday, October 20, 2003 in the Director's Office of the Main Library. The following members of the Board of Library Trustees were present:

- Janet Axelrod
- William Barry
- Andre Mayer
- James Roosevelt
- Nancy Woods

also present:

- Susan Flannery, Director of Libraries
- Bertha Chandler, Assistant Director for Human Resources
- Marilyn Gagalís, Administrative Assistant

Minutes of the June meeting were approved.

Correspondence was acknowledged from Beth Meyer, Daryl Mark, Carol Copeland, Angela Papierski, Combined Jewish Philanthropies of Greater Boston, Aaron Yuxin Zhu, Forest Selvig, Carla Bosco, Kent Van Zant, Nate Cooper, and Sylvia Baldwin.

The Board unanimously decided to ask Peter Galbraith to be the first speaker for the John Kenneth Galbraith Lecture. Susan Flannery will get his address and phone number. Janet Axelrod will write a letter to him.

Ms. Flannery informed the Board that she had not received any search warrants for the months of July, August, and September, 2003.

Board members postponed their discussion on the library's exhibit policy. The library is no longer accepting exhibit bookings since the building will be closing due to renovations. The library will not resume exhibitions until after the new building is completed. Therefore the Board decided to take the necessary time to review and revise the exhibit policy. It will be discussed at a future meeting yet to be determined.

Since Cambridge is the only library in the Minuteman network that is not currently offering 3 week borrowing periods, Ms. Flannery proposed that we change our borrowing period from 2 weeks to 3 weeks. It will greatly assist the Circulation Department with the number of renewals they process. After a brief discussion, the Board unanimously agreed to adopt this policy. This change would most likely take place in December after proper notification to the public.

In response to pending legislation, House Bill 2891 regarding the privacy rights of minor children, the Board requested that Ms. Flannery draft a letter from the Trustees to their Legislators stating their position. The position of the Trustees and the Cambridge Public Library is one of support for the Library Bill of Rights which prohibits discrimination based on age. Bill Barry suggested that the Board offer this letter to all Minuteman Libraries and the Intellectual Freedom Committee of the MLA to send to their legislators.

Janet Axelrod suggested that the Trustees host a winter event to celebrate the library, what it does, who it is, and where it is going. After a discussion, the Board decided to have lots of lights, both indoor and outdoor as well as activities, music, etc. It should be fun for adults and children alike. It would also introduce the future (new building) to those who are not aware of what is happening and how far the library has come. Both Janet Axelrod and Nancy Woods volunteered to work on planning this event. William Barry suggested the use of professionals to

provide lighting for the event. It was suggested that the Friends of the Library be asked to participate and possibly fund this event. The Board decided to have it in the dark of winter to illustrate that the library is a light in the darkness!

In response to a letter received from Ronal C. Madnick, President of the Massachusetts Chapter of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, the Board engaged in a discussion concerning the 10 commandments panel that is inside the library. Ms. Flannery provided the Board with historical information on the 10 commandment panel. As the building is renovated, architects complying with state regulations and spatial requirements, and in coordination with the Board of Library Trustees, will make a recommendation regarding the location of the panel. The Board will revisit this issue when information becomes available from the architects.

Ms. Flannery presented a proposal from the Cambridge Forum to collaborate on one program per year that would focus on children's literature. The Cambridge Forum would provide the program venue, promotional mailing, recording and radio production expertise, national radio broadcast and audiotape or CD for library use. Currently, the library is collaborating on a program for 2004 that will feature children's author Katherine Patterson. Ms. Flannery supported this proposal. The Board also agreed unanimously to support this venture.

Ms. Flannery provided a list of Capital Budget Projects for the library that will be funded during FY04.

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm. The next meeting of the Board will be on November 17, 2003 at 6:30 p.m. in the Main Library.

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Andre Mayer, Secretary